

REMARKS

Claims 7, 8 and 13 remain pending in the present application. Claims 7 and 8 has been amended. Claims 1-6 have been previously cancelled. Claims 9-12 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. New Claim 13 has been added. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Examiner has rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner objects to Claim 8 as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "said wheel hub outer circumferential region". Applicants have amended Claim 8 and is believed to overcome the Examiner's §112 rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) alleging them to be anticipated by Miyazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,096).

Independent Claim 7, among other elements, defines a chamfered outer circumferential surface of a back side of the inner ring that is recut.

The Miyazaki et al. reference fails to illustrate the chamfer on the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring that is recut. The Examiner alleges, with reference numeral 26, that this is the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring. However, the reference numeral 26 refers to a chamfered

inner circumferential surface of a back side of the inner ring not the outer surface as claimed. Further, Miyazaki et al. fails to illustrate the chamfered surface being recut. Accordingly, the Examiner does not appreciate that Claim 7 claims that the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the ring is recut. Additionally, the recutting uniformly distributes the stress concentration which would be otherwise caused by hoop stress caused in the inner ring during the caulking operation due to gouges on the chamfered surface. Additionally, it prevents the generation of cracks in the inner wheel hub and improves the strength and durability of the inner ring.

Accordingly, Applicants believes Claim 7 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner. Likewise, Claim 8, which depends from Claim 7, is patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

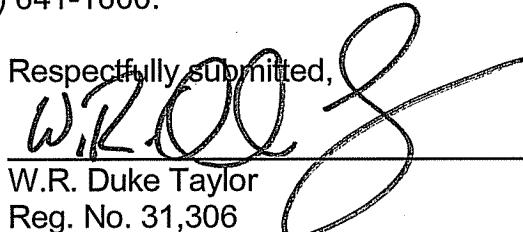
New Claim 13 has been added. Claim 13 illustrates that the chamfered surface on the outer circumferential surface of the back side of the inner ring eliminates burrs or gouges created on the chamfered surface during previous working steps to uniformly distribute the stress concentration that would be caused by hoop stress in the inner ring during the caulking operation. The art cited by the Examiner, as mentioned above, fails to illustrate this surface eliminating the burrs and gouges to uniformly distribute the hoop stress as claimed by Applicants.

Accordingly, Applicants believe Claim 13 to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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